

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, further comprising:  
an internal network of connection nodes connecting said virtualizer with said plurality of network-attached store computers;  
~~a computer system providing network attached store service according to a Network File System protocol,~~  
a plurality of communications network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal communications network, and  
a plurality of storage network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal storage network.
- 3-4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising Ethernet networking hardware and medium access protocols for facilitating communication within said internal communication network.
6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, ~~further comprising a wherein~~ said Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol suite for facilitating (TCP/IP) protocols facilitate communication between said plurality of network-attached store computers and said ~~plurality of client computers~~ computer.
7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a storage access protocol for facilitating communication between a storage component within said internal

communications network and remaining components within said internal communications network.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, wherein said virtualizer comprises a network router.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a communication virtualizer file switch connected to ~~[[a]]~~ said client computer and a server computer for sending requests for storage from one of a plurality of client computers to a network-attached store computer and from said network-attached store computer back to said ~~one~~ client computer of said plurality of client computers.

12-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[19]]~~ 30, wherein said virtualizer determines which of said plurality of network ~~[[ - ]]~~ attached ~~store computers~~ stores to transmit said request for storage to by examining ~~said~~ a zeroth packet in said request for storage.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, further comprising:  
~~said network-attached store computer sending a standard Ethernet packet to said virtualizer in reply to said request; and~~  
said virtualizer dividing said ~~standard Ethernet packet~~ single response into a plurality of standard Ethernet packets to send to said client computer as ~~a response comprising a single~~ multiple standard Ethernet packet packets.

23-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A system for virtualizing multiple network attached stores, said system comprising:

a plurality of network attached stores connected to an internal communications network,  
wherein each of said plurality of network attached stores corresponds to a  
plurality of network attached store computers;

a client computer, running a client application, connected to an external communications network, wherein:

said client computer packetizes a request for storage from said client application as multiple standard Ethernet packets, each of said multiple Ethernet packets including a unique request identifier corresponding to said request for storage;

said client computer combines said multiple Ethernet packets of said request for storage into one jumbo packet; and

said client computer sends said request for storage to a network address of a virtualizer, which is stored by said client computer, using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) protocols;

a virtualizer connected to said internal communications network and said external communications network,

wherein said virtualizer:

~~advertises a network address to said client computer for storage, said network address being accessed by a connection-oriented network attached store protocol used by said client computer;~~

receives ~~[[a]]~~ said request for storage from said client computer ~~and determines that said request is a single packet request;~~

translates said TCP/IP protocols of said request for storage received from said client computer into a network attached store protocol for communication with a plurality of network attached stores;

determines which single network attached store of said plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage ~~based on configuration information relating to said plurality of network attached stores~~; and

routes said request for storage to ~~[[a]]~~ said single network attached store, corresponding to a single network attached store computer;

wherein said single network attached store computer:

processes, at one time, said request for storage according to said network attached store protocol;

constructs a response, ~~said a single response~~, addressed to said client computer, by including information relating to processing of said request for storage and data to be included in said response re-assembling all multiple response packets into said single response;

packetizes said single response, ~~as a single packet response and send~~ and sends said single ~~packet~~ response to said virtualizer;

wherein said virtualizer:

determines that said single response is ~~a single packet response~~ addressed to said client computer; and

forwards said single response to said client computer; and

wherein said client computer:

receives said single response and de-packetizes said single response; and

passes said single response to said client application.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for virtualizing multiple network attached stores, the method comprising:

initiating, by a client application running on a client computer, a request for storage;

packetizing, by said client computer, said request for storage as ~~a single packet request~~ multiple standard Ethernet packets, each of said multiple standard Ethernet packets comprising said request for storage include a unique request identifier corresponding to said request for storage;

combining, by said client computer, said multiple standard Ethernet packets of said request for storage into one jumbo packet;

sending, by said client computer, said request for storage to a network address, advertised by of a virtualizer, which is stored by said client computer, using a connection-oriented network attached store protocol Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) protocols;

receiving, by said virtualizer, said request for storage and determining that said request is a single packet request;

translating, by said virtualizer, said TCP/IP protocols of said request for storage received from said client computer into a network attached store protocol for communication with one or more of a plurality of network attached stores;

determining, by said virtualizer, which single network attached store of [[a]] said plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage based on configuration information relating to said plurality of network attached stores;

routing, by said virtualizer, said request for storage to said single network attached store;

processing at one time, by said single network attached store, said request for storage in a network attached store computer corresponding to said single network attached store according to said network attached store protocol;

constructing, by said single network attached store, a single response by said single network attached store computer, said response, addressed to said client computer, by including information relating to processing of said request for storage and data to be included in said response re-assembling all multiple response packets into said single response;

packetizing said single response, by said network attached store, computer, as a single packet response and sending said single packet response to said virtualizer;

determining, by said virtualizer, that said response is a single packet response is addressed to said client computer;

forwarding, by said virtualizer, said single response to said client computer;

receiving, by said client computer, said single response and de-packetizing said single response; and

passing, by said client computer, said single response to said client application.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein said network attached store protocol comprises one of a Network File system protocol and a Common Internet File System protocol.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said network attached store protocol comprises one of a Network File system protocol and a Common Internet File System protocol.